

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 1, before line 1, please insert the following new paragraph as follows:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is the U.S. counterpart of WO 2004/071978 and claims priority to French application no. 03/003805 on January 15, 2003, the entire contents of each of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

Please delete the original Abstract at page 13, lines 1-12 in its entirety and insert therefor the following replacement Abstract on a separate sheet as follows: